



**SAN DIEGANS
WASTE
NO WATER**
ALL DAY. EVERY DAY.

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PUBLIC UTILITIES



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Helps Quench Thirst for Resources, Information and Events During “Water Awareness Month”

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego is recognizing Water Awareness Month throughout May and is inviting San Diegans to learn more about water, “tap” into City resources and participate in a series of fun and educational activities.

City Hall will once again be transformed into “Kiddie Hall” on May 1 as school children from throughout San Diego join the Mayor and San Diego City Council to be honored for their creative expressions about water conservation through the City’s annual poster contest and to kick off “Water Awareness Month.”

While San Diego’s short-term water supply outlook is good, it is important to remember that San Diego still imports up to 85 percent of its water supply from Northern California and the Colorado River. The conditions that affect these imported water supplies are cyclical and subject to change. Additionally, dry years are more common than wet years in Southern California. In response to these realities, San Diegans are adopting a long-term ethic to “waste no water.”

“It wasn’t too long ago that we were dealing with water cutbacks and had to alter our water-use behaviors,” said Mayor Jerry Sanders. “Now that we have ample short-term supplies, the message is to remember the value of water, use it wisely and never waste it,” added Sanders.

Informational Resources

- Spotlights this month is **“Drinking Water Week”** from May 6 to 12. Learn more about water sources, purchasing water, treating water, and distributing water. **“From Source to Tap”** is featured on the City’s website at www.sandiego.gov/water/quality.
- Find fun facts about water, water-saving tips for inside and outside your home, report water waste and read about year-round water-waste restrictions. Also featured is a **Landscape Watering Calculator** that can help you determine the exact amount of water your landscaping needs. Go to www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation.
- The City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department recognizes the importance of its responsibility with the money customers pay for water and sewer service. Learn more about how the department uses fees to fund programs, services and a vast, complex water and sewer system on the **Your Dollars at Work** web page at www.sandiego.gov/publicutilities/dollarsatwork.shtml.

- Join in the conversation and share water saving tips, ideas, resources and comments. Go to www.facebook.com and look for “**San Diegans Waste No Water**,” “**City of San Diego Public Utilities**” and “**Water Purification Demonstration Project**” or go to www.twitter.com and look for “**SDWasteNoWater**,” “**SDPubUtilities**.” If videos are your thing, check out the City of San Diego Public Utilities YouTube Channel at www.YouTube.com/SDPublicUtilities.

Resources to Save Water and Money

- City water customers can take advantage of **free residential and commercial water surveys** through the Public Utilities Department to pinpoint water-saving options at your home or business, including identifying possible leaks. On average, an American home wastes more than 10,000 gallons of water every year due to running toilets, dripping faucets, and other household leaks. That’s a lot of water, and money, wasted. Call (619) 570-1999, email water@sandiego.gov or visit the City’s website at www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation.
- Spring gardening season is in full swing and the City’s Public Utilities Department has a **residential and commercial outdoor rebate program**. By conducting a landscape makeover and maintaining a healthy garden, City water customers may be eligible for cash-back rebates on rain barrels, smart controllers and micro-irrigation. Funded primarily by state grants competitively sought and obtained by the Department, the rebates are available to eligible single-family, multi-family and commercial customers on a first-come, first-served basis. Sustainable landscapes/turf replacement rebates, which are a popular component of the program, have been suspended until new funding is obtained. Visit the City’s website at www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation and look for “rebates.”

Fun and Educational Events/Activities

Thanks to the support from local community groups, City libraries and businesses, San Diegans can also enjoy local events and get involved with the community and focus on all things water. Beginning May 1, a comprehensive listing of events, including various story times at local libraries, will be posted on the City’s website under the header “**Money-Saving Resources, Information and Events Spotlighted During Water Awareness Month**” at www.wastenowater.org.

May 1
10:00 a.m.

City Council Presentation of the Kids Poster Contest Winners
City Council Chambers, City Administration Building
202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101
Please note: Event also televised on CityTV Channels 24 or 99

May 2
6:30 p.m.

Secrets of the Best Landscape Designers
The City-Supported Water Conservation Garden *
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019

May 5
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Garden Friendly Plant Fair (co-hosted by the City)
Home Depot
5920 Fairmount Avenue (Mission Valley, 92108)

Weekdays in May
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Water Conservation Clinics
Home Depot – Sports Arena
3555 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92110

Saturdays in May
5, 12, 19, & 26
10:30 a.m.

Water Conservation Garden Tour
The City-Supported Water Conservation Garden*
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019

Saturdays in May
5, 12, 19, & 26
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Lawn Maintenance Workshops
Home Depot – Imperial Marketplace
355 Marketplace Avenue, San Diego, CA 92113

- May 19**
10:00 a.m. **California-Friendly Landscape Contest Award Ceremony**
City-Supported Water Conservation Garden*
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019
- May 19**
11:00 a.m. **Water Conservation Story Time**
Barnes & Noble - Mira Mesa
10775 Westview Parkway, San Diego, CA 92126
- May 19**
1:00 p.m. **Water Conservation Story Time**
Barnes & Noble - Hazard Center
7610 Hazard Center Drive, # 315, San Diego, CA 92108
- May 21**
5:30 p.m. **Water Conservation Film Contest Red Carpet Premiere**
Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101
Please note: Finalists' films will also be available for viewing at www.wastenowater.org
- May 22**
6:00 p.m. **Water Smart Landscape**
City-Supported Water Conservation Garden*
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019

*Please check the Water Conservation Garden's website for a full list of their events at www.thegarden.org. There are other classes and workshops scheduled in May that require a registration fee.

Water Purification Demonstration Project Tours

Members of the public will be able to learn about and see firsthand the new advanced water purification facility that was built at the North City Water Reclamation Plant. This demonstration-scale project is testing the feasibility of providing safe and reliable drinking water from recycled water.

Following an introductory presentation, guides will lead a walking tour through the facility. Guests will see up close the advanced purification process that involves three consecutive steps, including membrane filtration, reverse osmosis and UV disinfection/advanced oxidation processes. At the end of the tour, guests can view the purified water produced at the facility and will have a chance to compare it to drinking water and recycled water samples.

To register for a tour of the Water Purification Demonstration Project, visit the project website at www.purewatersd.org/tours.shtml. For a presentation to your community, civic or business organization, email purewatersd@sandiego.gov or call (619) 533-6638.

The City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department ensures the quality, reliability and sustainability of water, wastewater and recycled water services for the benefit of the ratepayers and residents served. The Department's Water Conservation Program reduces water waste through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about the Public Utilities Department, call (619) 515-3500 or visit www.sandiego.gov/publicutilities.

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